

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /101 W  
----- 021391

R 050815Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1134

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BG

SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES

1. IN CABINET CHANGE ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 4, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS TAKEN OVER THE PORTFOLIOS OF INFORMATION AND BROADCAST AND RELIEF AND REHABILITATION AND HAS APPOINTED 14 STATE MINISTERS. MUJIB NOW DIRECTLY CONTROLS FIVE MINISTRIES, THE OTHERS BEING DEFENSE, CABINET AFFAIRS, AND PLANNING. FORMER INFORMATION MINISTER SHEIKH ABDUL AZIZ WAS GIVEN THE MINOR MINISTRY OF POST, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONES, UNTIL RECENTLY AMONG THE MINISTRIES OF GENERAL OSMANY. SINCE THE FIRING OF MIZANUR RAHMAN CHOWDHURY IN MAY, SOHRAB HUSSAIN, WORKS AND HOUSING MINISTER, HAS HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION.

2. THE 14 STATE MINISTERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE: TAKERUDDIN THAKUR, INFORMATION; ABBUL MOMEN, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION; SHAJADA ABDUL MALEK KHAN, SMALL INDUSTRIES; NURAL ISLAM CHOUDHURY, NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES; MOSLEMUDDIN KHAN HABU MIA, JUTE AFFAIRS; NURAL ISLAM MANJU, RAILWAY, ROADS AND HIGHWAYS AND ROAD  
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TRANSPORT; OBAIDUR RAHMAN, POWER: ABDUL MOMEN TALUKDER,

TRADE; DR. KHITESH MONDAL, AGRICULTURE; BEGUM BADRUNESSA AHMED, EDUCATION; NOORJAHN MURSHED, SOCIAL WELFARE AND FAMILY PLANNING (UNDER TWO SEPARATE MINISTRIES); AMIRUL ISLAM, FOOD; DEWAN FARID GAZI, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATIVES; RIAZUDDIN AHMED BHOLA MIA, FOREST, FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK.

3. COMMENT: MUJIB'S ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION MINISTRY VERY LIKELY RESULTS FROM INCREASING UNHAPPINESS OF AWAMI LEAGUE OVER MOUNTING PRESS CRITICISM. THE DOWNGRADING OF ABDUL AZIZ REFLECTS ALSO DISPLEASURE WITH AZIZ'S INABILITY TO RUN MINISTRY EFFICIENTLY. ALTHOUGH IMPORTANCE OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION HAS BEEN DECLINING, MUJIB'S ACTION MAY INDICATE A RESURGENCE GIVEN INNUMERABLE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN RESETTLING RETURNED BENGALLEES. BOTH THAKUR AND MOMEN ARE CONSIDERED CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF THE SHEIKH WHOM HE TRUSTS. AMIRUL ISLAM, WHO WAS SCHEDULED TO HEAD ABORTED UN DELEGATION, HAD BEEN RUMORED TO BE NEW MFA STATE MINISTER. HIS APPOINTMENT TO FOOD MINISTRY IS A SURPRISE. AT FIRST READING, CALIBRE OF NEW STATE MINISTERS AS A WHOLE APPEARS TO BE GOOD.  
NEWBERRY

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## Message Attributes

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